CIVIL PROCEDURE I
FALL 2017

COURSE INFORMATION

Professor Information

Rigel C. Oliveri
Hulston Hall, Room 321
Office phone: 573-882-5068
E-mail: OliveriR@missouri.edu
Office hours: Thursdays 1:00-2:30 or by appointment

Required Texts

- YEAZELL & SCHWARTZ, CIVIL PROCEDURE (9th ed. Aspen)
- There are two packets containing course material. One is a set of sample litigation documents and additional readings, and the other is a set of Powerpoint slides that I will use to lecture from. Both are available for a low price at the Bookstore.

Course Web Site

This course will make use of a course web page through TWEN (The West Education Network). The syllabus, reading assignments, and other class materials will be posted to the site. If you have any trouble accessing the site, please contact Resa Kerns (882-5108) in the library. I will occasionally send e-mail messages to the e-mail account that you designate when you register with TWEN. It is your responsibility to check this account regularly and to make sure that the account remains functional.

Assignments

This course contains roughly 350 pages of scheduled reading, to be covered in the order presented in this syllabus. I will post the material I expect to cover each week to TWEN on the previous Friday afternoon. On rare occasions, I may require you to read short materials that do not appear in the syllabus. These will appear in the Friday TWEN posting.

Learning Outcomes

My goals for this class are that you will
- become familiar with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- gain familiarity with how to file and litigate a civil case in the Federal Courts;
- gain knowledge useful for passing the Civil Procedure portion of the bar exam
Course Grade, Participation, and Attendance

Your grade will be based on a final examination, as modified by your attendance and participation (see below). The exam will be modified open-book, for which you may consult your textbook, supplement, classroom notes, and slides. You may also use a course outline as long as it is 100% your own work product. Commercial outlines and outlines prepared by other students are not allowed. Please see me if you have any questions about permissible materials. The exam will consist of essays and multiple-choice questions. Any of the assigned readings and anything said in class may potentially appear on the exam.

Active and engaged participation is expected and will contribute greatly to your learning experience. Participation includes prompt daily attendance, involvement in classroom discussion, and being prepared when called upon. Volunteers are welcome! I will also call on students at random. If, for whatever reason, you have been unable to prepare for particular class session, please let me know before class and I will not call on you that day. Do not make a habit of coming to class unprepared. At my discretion, your final grade may be adjusted upward or downward by up to two points to reflect the quality of your contributions to the class.

American Bar Association Accreditation Standard 305(c) requires your regular class attendance. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. With 41 scheduled class meeting this semester, you may miss nine classes without penalty. If you miss more than nine classes, you will be dropped from the course barring extraordinary circumstances. I will circulate an attendance sheet. It is your responsibility to sign the sheet and to keep track of your absences.

No-Laptop Policy, No Recording Devices

Research shows that taking notes on computer inhibits knowledge retention. My own experience shows that computers can inhibit classroom engagement and create unwarranted distractions. Therefore, with the exception of approved accommodations related to disability services, I do not allow the use of computers in class. I use Powerpoint slides to lecture from. A packet containing all of the slides for the course is available in the Bookstore.

Do not make a tape recording of the class unless you have my permission. Per law school policy permission will generally be denied unless it is a disability-related accommodation.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of the School of Law. All members of the law school community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. In particular:

- I often re-use multiple choice questions from one exam to the next. As a result, I do not make these questions available to students outside of the exam itself, thus you should not have them in your possession.
The law school community regards breaches of the School of Law’s Honor Code as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a violation may include academic sanctions such as failing the course, and disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. Please consult me when in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating.

**Intellectual Pluralism**

The School of Law community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to Dean Lyrissa Lidsky. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of this course.

**Accommodation of Disabilities**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify Associate Dean Rafael Gely and/or Registrar Denise Boessen of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

**Visitors and Children**

If you anticipate bringing a visitor to class, please let me know either through email or by introducing me to the person before class begins.

If you have young children, you may find yourself needing to bring them with you to class on occasion. As a parent myself, I am well aware that the best laid plans can fall apart when kids are involved. Please know that this is not a problem, though you may wish to sit in the back or near a door in order to minimize distractions for your fellow students.